

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1887

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CG

SUBJECT: AUSTERITY AND CIVIL AVIATION

1. MOORE, FAA CIVIL AVIATION GROUP TEAM CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF ZAIRE'S CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY INFORMED US GOZ HAS DECIDED RENEGOTIATE PHILIPS CONTRACT FOR Z43 MILLION OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND TO SUSPEND CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT RUTSHURU. EFFORT WILL ALSO BE MADE TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF AIRPORT EQUIPMENT CONTRACTED FOR IN PHILIPS ELECTRONIC CONTRACT AND GKN-DUMEZ CONTRACTS FOR AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION REFURBISHMENT.

2. MOORE RECENTLY HAD FIVE-HOUR MEETING WITH NEW COMMISSAIRE D'ETAT FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, INONGA, AND BRIEFED HIM IN DEPTH ON GROSS SINS OF HIS PREDECESSOR, EKETEBI, IN SIGNING LARGE CONTRACTS FOR UNNEEDED HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS POORLY PLANNED AND EXCESSIVE AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION/UPGRADING IN THE INTERIOR. WHEN LOCAL PHILIPS REP INFORMED OF DECISION TO BREAK (CASSE)

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CONTRACT, HE VOWED TO FIGHT TO THE END SINCE SOME

EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN ZAIRE AND OTHER BEING MANUFACTURED.
ON RUTSHURU, LOCAL REP OF CONSTRUCTION FIRM, DUMEZ, NOT
AVAILABLE, SO MESSAGE RELAYED TO KIVU.

3. MOORE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVOKED BY DIRECTOR OF INTER-
NATIONAL COOPERATION AT DEPT FONAFF KUTENDAKANA. LATTER
SPOKE IN TERMS OF NEGOTIATING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS
MORATORIUM ON CONTRACTS. KUTENDAKANA OPINED ZAIRE WAS
YOUNG NATION WITH UNDEREQUIPPED ADMINISTRATIVE INFRA-
STRUCTURE. FIRMS SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED THEIR RESPECTIVE
EMBASSIES PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS TO MAKE CERTAIN
DUPLICATE EQUIPMENT NOT BEING ORDERED. MOORE HAS
BEEN SUMMONED BY FONMIN BULA FOR MEETING MARCH 28.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER GOZ INTENDS TO BREAK
OR RENEGOTIATE CONTRACTS. IN EITHER CASE, IT FACES STIFF
CANCELLATION OR PENALTY CHARGES. THIS IS WELCOME SIGN
THAT GOZ BEGINNING TO PUT ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER AFTER
EXCESSES COMMITTED BY EKETEBI. ON OTHER HAND, MOORE AND
FAA TEAM ACKNOWLEDGE NEED FOR RELATIVELY MODEST AMOUNTS
OF NAVAIDS AND FOR REASONABLE REGURBISHING OF SELECTED
AIRFIELDS. OTHER BIG LOSERS ARE APT TO BE PHILIPS, GKN
AND DUMEZ, ALL OF WHOM CAN BE EXPECTED TO WAGE ALL-OUT
REAR GUARD ACTION. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT GOZ IS
AT LONG LAST CONSULTING FAA TEAM ON TECHNICAL CIVIL
AVIATION PROBLEMS.
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